

**Speech of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for
the Great Lakes region**

**2nd meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation
Network**

13-14 June, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Mr. Frederick Kapela Manyanda, Assistant Director of Public
Prosecutions, Representative of the Minister of Justice of the United
Republic of Tanzania,

Ambassador Eliane Mokodopo, representative of the Executive-
Secretary of the ICGLR.

Ambassador Jeroen Verheul of the Kingdom of Netherlands,

Distinguished Members of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation
Network,

Distinguished members of the Diplomatic corps,

Dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you this morning for the opening of the second meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, which was launched by the member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR) in 2016 in Nairobi. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Tanzania for hosting this important event.

Combating impunity is a critical step towards peace and stability in the region. In this regard, the idea of creating mechanisms to strengthen regional judicial cooperation is not new: it stems from key provisions of the 2006 ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development for the Great Lakes region (ICGLR Pact) and related Protocols, as well as from commitments of the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (PSC Framework).

A key commitment of the PSC Framework provides for countries of the region to “*neither harbor nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of*

genocide or crimes of aggression, or persons falling under the UN Sanctions regime and to facilitate the administration of justice through judicial cooperation in the region.”

In line with this commitment, the leaders of the region, at the eighth meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the PSC Framework on 19 October 2017 in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, welcomed the establishment of the ICGLR Judicial Cooperation Network and reiterated the importance of ensuring that those responsible for crimes against humanity be investigated and brought to justice.

In February 2018, we marked in Addis Ababa the fifth anniversary of the signing of the PSC Framework. On that occasion, together the signatory countries and the Guarantors to the Framework Agreement, namely the African Union, the ICGLR, Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the UN, we assessed the status of its implementation. Increased judicial cooperation was one of the areas in which some progress was noted, including thanks to the creation and operationalization of the judicial corporation network. I wish to recognize the efforts of you all for this achievement, and I welcome your continued engagement, demonstrated by today’s strong representation.

Despite these encouraging developments, however, we have a long way to go: individuals accused of serious crimes are still at large across the Great Lakes region and remain an important source of instability. Overall, greater efforts are required to prevent and combat serious crimes in the region.

Distinguished members of the Judicial Cooperation Network,

This Network provides you with a mechanism to share information, knowledge, and guidance on judicial matters and procedures, and to work together on key cases, including cases related to the illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources which I would like to suggest as a key area of your collaboration and your next meeting.

I would like to stress the fact that the network was created by the countries to support their own efforts to fight impunity. It is your mechanism and I encourage you to fully own it, and suggest and implement ways for it to best serve its purpose. I and my Office will continue to accompany your efforts, working with ICGLR and other partners.

The success of the Network will not only send strong signals that impunity will no longer be tolerated. It will also contribute to re-establish trust amongst the countries of the region, a trust based on closer collaboration and the rule of law.

Distinguished participants,

I shall conclude by thanking the ICGLR and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes for their efforts, together with my team, in organizing this important gathering. I also thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations Development Programme for their co-leadership of the justice and conflict prevention pillar (pillar 6) of the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework that supports regional judicial cooperation.

Special thanks go to our partners, in particular the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway.

Lastly, I thank the participants and once again our host, the Government of Tanzania for its precious support and warm welcome.

I wish you fruitful deliberations